

## ***THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY***

**September 2011 – Week 3**

**Air Date: September 18 – September 24 (Sunday – Saturday)**



### **TITLE: JACOB'S FOLLY**

SEPTEMBER 1865 AND A TEXAS FLYING MACHINE TAKES TO THE AIR, OR DOES IT?

THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY, BROUGHT TO YOU BY THIS STATION AND THE SAVE TEXAS HISTORY PROGRAM OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE.

SEPTEMBER 20, 1865. FREDERICKSBURG. SCHOOLTEACHER JACOB BRODBECK HAS A DREAM. HE WANTS TO BUILD A MACHINE TO FLY LIKE THE BIRDS. BUT POST-WAR HILL COUNTRY HAS LITTLE MONEY FOR BIG IDEAS.

THROUGH NEWSPAPER ADS, BRODBECK FINDS BACKERS AND STARTS TO WORK. HIS AIRSHIP IS POWERED BY COILED SPRINGS, AND FEATURES AN ENCLOSED COCKPIT AND EVEN A BOAT PROPELLER IF HE LANDS ON WATER.

TODAY, BRODBECK TESTS HIS CRAFT. WITNESSES SEE THE VEHICLE RISE INTO THE AIR ABOUT THIRTY FEET, THEN CRASH TO EARTH. BRODBECK IS UNHURT BUT HIS FLYING MACHINE IS NO MORE.

THIRTY YEARS BEFORE THE WRIGHT BROTHERS, A GERMAN TEXAN MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE FIRST TO FLY, 146 YEARS AGO, THIS WEEK IN TEXAS HISTORY.

LEARN MORE AT [SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG](http://SAVETEXASHISTORY.ORG) OR CALL 800-998-4GLO.

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<http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/BB/fbr63.html>

Texas Less Traveled website, accessed 8/31/09

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“Texan had ‘wine-powered’ flight before the Wright Brothers” Vintage Texas website accessed 8/31/09

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“FIRST TO FLY” by C. F. Eckhardt, Texas Escapes website accessed 8/31/09

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